



CALPEEK

CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK

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VOL. XXV
No. 34

SEPT. 22, 2003

RECALL MADNESS: IS A MARCH 2004 RECALL GOOD FOR GOV. DAVIS? OR IS OCTOBER A BETTER DATE?

Editor's note: We keep saying it and every week it happens: a new, big story every 12-24 hours. Less than 24 hours after the close of the CA Republican Party convention, a 3-judge panel from the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeal issued a ruling postponing the Oct. 7th recall election of Gov. Gray Davis. Now the entire 9th Circuit will review that decision. *Calpeek* will look at the political impact of the decision and not the legal issues. Here's our analysis & commentary...

... The quick, easy response is that if the 9th Circuit decision is upheld, it's good news for Davis. March 2004 will see a big Demo turnout for the presidential primary. And this is exactly why the recall advocates wanted to *avoid* March 2004 and pushed so hard for an early fall recall. And some might say with more time perhaps the Calif. economy will improve – and it will give Gov. Davis more time to make his case against the recall and to show some leadership. Others think that voter interest in the recall may *fade* by March...

... However, what may seem like a big boost for Davis may in fact **not** be such a good thing. Here's why. 1) It won't take recall advocates long to figure out that the best way to really pump up an anti-Davis vote and revitalize the recall in March is to make sure SB 60 (drivers licenses for non-citizens) is put on the March 2nd ballot as a *referendum*. There is a huge amount of anger at Davis for signing SB 60. 2) If the recall is in March, Gov. Davis will have to issue a new budget for 2004. Will he have the guts to make more cuts and fire State workers? Will he again propose raising taxes? 3) If the recall is in March, Gov. Davis will lose his clout with interest groups who have bills waiting for his signature or veto. If the recall remains Oct. 7th he can wait until just after the recall is over – and then sign or veto...

... Of course, Gov. Davis isn't the only one who could be hurt by a postponement. State Sen. Tom McClintock (R-Camarillo) faces reelection next year. If the recall is in March, will Arnold Schwarzenegger's team run a well funded moderate opponent against McC in the primary? That's one scenario we've heard. And will Schwarzeneg-

ger have to rethink his own campaign? Will he engage in real debates and agree to news conferences? If he doesn't, will his celebrity status become a two-edged sword???

... Bottomline: there are numerous sources who think that Gov. Davis is better off with the Oct. 7th date. He's got some *momentum* right now, even though his numbers are still poor; he has the veto leverage over special interest groups on several key bills; and the referendum on SB 60 *isn't* on the table yet. SB 60 is a real killer for Davis if the recall is moved to March. Stay tuned...

SHOWDOWN BETWEEN ARNOLD & TOM PREVENTS CALIF. GOP FROM PRESENTING A UNIFIED FRONT.

Editor's note: Up until the day before the Sept. 12-14 Calif. Republican Party (CRP) convention, GOP power brokers tried to persuade State Sen. Tom McClintock (Camarillo) to bow out of the Oct. 7th recall and leave the field to Arnold Schwarzenegger. McC wouldn't budge, despite the pressure. Here's our analysis & commentary...

... Tons of news media – foreign and national press, as well as the Calif. press corps – attended the 3-day convention at the LAX Marriot Hotel, where 1,500 CRP delegates came to hear both Schwarzenegger and McC. Schwarzenegger's candidacy is what drives the coverage, not the recall itself...

... Just by raw count, at least 75% of the delegates were Schwarzenegger supporters. And while CRP Chair Duff Sundheim may have professed neutrality, it was very clear which candidate got the red carpet treatment. It was Schwarzenegger who got the high-profile Saturday luncheon keynote speech. Did Schwarzenegger take advantage of this golden opportunity to persuade conservatives he's the guy they should support? *Mixed reviews*. But one Schwarzenegger supporter (a conservative) told *Calpeek* the speech itself was about a C or C+, but Schwarzenegger didn't offend conservatives with his advocacy of certain social issues (abortion, guns, gays). Tons of coverage...

... But McC also got more than his fair share of coverage. Candidates for high profile office usually agree to hold a

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news conference while at the convention, but not Arnold. He continues to duck news conferences. So McC, who doesn't smile often, walked into afternoon press conference (9/13) packed with media. Big smile, from ear-to-ear, as McC saw about 75 journalists and wall-to-wall tv cameras. He's never gotten such coverage before and he loved it. He took questions for 45 minutes and his answers were clear, but he didn't break any new ground. He hit Arnold a few times, but nothing very serious. His best line was perhaps, "Audits are no substitute for a governor who knows what he's doing." He did address the one question which keeps coming up: will you drop out. "How can I say it so you all understand it. I'm in this until the end. I'm the only candidate who has momentum."...

... And indeed he does have some momentum. While Schwarzenegger has been holding steady at 23-27% for weeks, McC has zoomed from zero to 14% in the new Field Poll (w/o Peter Ueberroth) and in the new L.A. Times poll is at 18%. McC's own polling shows him at about 16%. As one McC supporter told *Calpeek*, "If the L.A. Times poll had shown Tom not doing as well, the pressure for him to get out would not have eased up – not that McClintock cares. The more the pressure, the more he thinks he's right." FYI: The newest polling from Demo Jim Moore for the Bustamante campaign (came out of the field 9/15) shows Bustamante at 30%, Schwarzenegger 28% and McC 21%. So Part 2 of the recall is getting closer. Stay tuned...

RECALL MADNESS: SHORT TAKES WORTH NOTING.

Editor's note: Here are some political developments and notes we didn't put into our lead story about the Oct. 7th recall...

◆ ***L.A. Times Poll*** – The newest L.A. Times poll shows Part 1 on the recall question itself to be getting *very tight*. The newest survey shows 50% will vote to remove Davis vs. 47% who want to keep him. Among Demos, it's 19% remove vs. 79% retain; among GOPers it's 83% remove vs. 15% retain. Among independents it's 50% remove vs. 47% retain. Here's a key problem for Davis: union households. While union leadership has lined up against the recall, in union homes it's 51% remove vs. 45% retain. Hummm...

◆ ***McClintock's Funding*** – State Sen. Tom McClintock is raising about \$40,000 per day on the internet – according to McC sources. In addition, it's been reported that McC will be getting some big bucks from the Indian casino tribes. McC addressed that issue at his news conference (9/13)...

◆ ***Demos Endorse Bustamante*** – As expected, the Calif. Demo Party on 9/13 voted by 85% to endorse Lt. Gov. Cruz Bustamante in Part 2 of the recall...

◆ ***Best Button at CRP Convention*** – white on a blue background: *Help Tom Elect Cruz*...

◆ ***Schwarzenegger on Oprah*** – One McC supporter has suggested Arnold was doing the Oprah Winfrey Show "to reach out to women – other than those at Gold's Gym."...

◆ ***Anti-Schwarzenegger tv/radio campaign*** – The Rev. Lou Sheldon has formed *Californians for Moral Govt.* Political consultant James Lafferty is the CMG consultant. CMG has produced a :60-sec. tv ad which starts out with Arnold Schwarzenegger's face and morphs into Gray Davis' face. Voice over says, "You have to ask yourself – if all we are doing is trading one bad liberal tax-raising politician for another – why bother with the recall?" Haven't seen the ad on tv as yet, but CMG says it will air on cable tv in L.A. and Sacto. An audio track will run as a :60-sec radio ad for conservative talk radio and Christian radio stations. CMG hopes to raise \$1 million. Sheldon was outspoken in his opposition to Schwarzenegger, but would not endorse McC's candidacy. Sheldon was the 2nd person to suggest that perhaps it would be better if Schwarzenegger stepped down, instead of McC. The first person to suggest that was savvy GOP spin MD K.B. Forbes, Bill Simon's former spin MD. Stay tuned...

NO FALLOUT JUST YET FOR MAYOR MURPHY AS 3 SAN DIEGO COUNCILMAN ARE INDICTED BY FEDS.

Editor's note: On Aug. 28th a Federal grand jury indicted 3 members of the San Diego city council – along with a lobbyist and a strip club owner from Las Vegas – all part of a public corruption probe, which popped into the open this past spring. The key question is whether this scandal will tarnish San Diego Mayor Dick Murphy's reelection campaign next year. Here's our brief analysis...

... The 3 councilmen are Ralph Inzunza, Charles Lewis and Michael Zucchet. All three are Demos and Inzunza and Lewis are considered to be allies of Mayor Murphy. Strip club owner Michael Galardi has already entered a guilty plea – to charges of conspiracy and bribing a vice cop who was secretly working for the FBI. Several *Calpeek* sources say the government's case against the 3 councilmen is *weak*.. In other words, there's not much evidence of a quid pro quo for taking political contributions. The government thinks these guys were given bribes. The councilmen deny wrongdoing...

... And sources say there's no blood in the water as far as the mayor is concerned. At least not yet. However, some have questioned what seems to be a double standard

for Murphy. Back in 2000 when he was running for mayor, Murphy called on former Councilwoman Valerie Stallings to resign her seat during a federal probe (arising out of her trading shares of stock of a company headed by *San Diego Padres* owner John Moores). Murphy has not asked for the 3 councilmen to resign. Is that a double standard???

...Is anyone looking at a 2004 challenge against Murphy? Sources say Peter Davis is making noise; San Diego Co. Sup. Ron Roberts is said to be thinking about it; ditto San Diego Councilwoman Donna Frye. Stay tuned...

FULL METAL JACKET: POLITICS OF THE RECALL.

Editor's note: The issue of *gun control* is always controversial, but this recall election has intensified the situation in Sacramento. Here's our brief update & analysis...

...Facing the possibility of being tossed out of office, Gov. Gray Davis(D) early on said that he did not want to see any controversial gun bills reach his desk. The reason is simple: guns act as a *wedge issue* for & against Demos...

...But Davis did signal that he was interested in at least 3 bills that were part of a *collaborative effort* from the NRA and the CA Dept. of Justice (AG Bill Lockyer). These bills include:

◆ SB 255 – By State Sen. Denise Ducheny(D-San Diego). This is a first in the nation bill that allows a person who has committed a crime in the past to determine if he/she is now eligible to buy a gun. For a \$20 fee, a person can confirm their status – without putting themselves in any additional legal trouble...

◆ SB 824 – By State Sen. Jack Scott(D-Pasadena). Authorizes gun dealers to require anyone who sells, handles or delivers firearms to obtain a certificate of eligibility after a background check. FYI: the bill also contains language on how the DOJ registers handguns. This is something legislative gun guru Irwin Nowick has been pushing for a long time...

◆ SB 226 – By State Sen. Gil Cedillo(D-L.A.). This bill prevents a person subject to an elder and/or dependent abuse protective order from owning, purchasing, possessing or receiving a firearm while that order is in effect...

...Although there are several bills Davis did NOT want to see on his desk, the one listed below is there because of the recall election:

● SB 489 – By State Sen. Scott and Assemblyman Darrell Steinberg(D-Sacto). This bill adds more safety features to SB 15 (passed & signed in 1999) – the Saturday Night Special ban. This bill got to Davis' desk thanks to Arnold Schwarzenegger, who said he supports and would sign this legislation. Among other things, SB 489 requires (beginning 1/1/06) semi-automatic handguns with a detachable magazine to have a chamber load indicator or a magazine disconnect. Scott and Steinberg used Schwarzenegger's support as a wedge/cover to get the bill to Davis' desk. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2004: UPDATE ON LEGISLATIVE RACES.

Editor's note: Here is *Part XXI* in our continuing series of updates about key U.S. House and Calif. Legislative primary contests...

☒ *20th CD Update* – In the Demo battle to replace U.S. Rep. Cal Dooley(D-Hanford), who announced last week that he was stepping down after 6 terms, Dooley's COS Lisa Quigley announced she is running for her boss's job. Also in the race are former State Sen. Jim Costa(D) and Demo Assemblywoman Sarah Reyes – both from Fresno. Dooley has already announced his support for Quigley...

☒ *42nd AD Update* – Sources now say that former L.A. Councilman Mike Feuer will not challenge incumbent Assemblyman Paul Koretz(D-West Hollywood) in the 2004 Demo primary. But it is true Feuer conducted a poll (by Goodwin Simon Strategic Research). It showed Feuer defeating Koretz in a 1-on-1 match: 38% to 31%. It also showed Koretz's reelect number at only 26%. *Cal-peek* sources also have heard the name of Beverly Hills school board member Dr. William Brien as exploring a run in 2004. He is the grandson of Earl Warren. Brien is not seeking reelection to the BH school board...

☒ *29th AD Update* – Former GOP Assemblyman Mike Briggs of Fresno says he's 99% sure he'll run for his old AD against incumbent GOPER Steve Samuelian...

☒ *76th AD* – Former Davis Admin. staff director Vince Hall(D) will make another run for the State Assembly next year – but not in the 78th AD against freshman Shirley Horton(R-San Diego). Instead he'll be running for Demo Christine Kehoe's 76th AD. But Hall will have a challenge from political pollster Heidi Von Szeliski of the Demo polling firm of Decision Research. Should be an interesting primary...

☒ *47th AD Update* – As noted before, former L.A. Councilman Nate Holden was looking things over in this

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seat now held by Speaker Herb Wesson. Now he has formed an exploratory committee and must be considered the frontrunner – based on name ID. Sources also note that Dr. Richard Groper, PhD. (instructor at CSU-Fullerton) is in the primary. He's from the Westwood/UCLA area and has raised \$61,391 with \$60,319 coh. And finally, Calpeek sources say former CTA president Wayne Johnson is looking over the 47th AD. Johnson used to teach at Hamilton High in West L.A. Stay tuned...

CALPEEK'S CALENDAR OF POLITICAL EVENTS

Sept. 22	Last day to register for the Oct. 7 th recall.
Sept. 24	Recall debate sponsored by the CA Broadcasters Assn. (6-7:30 p.m.), CSU-Sacto.
Oct. 2-4	AAPC Academic Conf., Akron, OH
Oct. 7	Special Recall Election – Calif.
Oct. 14	S.F. Mayor's debate, 7-8 p.m. KPIX-TV and KCBS-AM radio.
Oct. 14-17	Council of State Govts.-West Western Legislative Academy, Colorado Springs. Info @ (916)553-4423.

DOG DAYS OF SUMMER: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.

Editor's note: Here are a few items, political & otherwise, worth noting...

■ **Presidential Politics** – Former 4-star Gen. Wesley Clark has entered the Demo presidential race, thus becoming the 10th Demo in the field. He'll be playing catch-up with Dean, Kerry, Gephardt and Lieberman, but in a fairly new Zogby America Poll (Sept. 3-5, 507 likely Demos) Clark is in 5th place and ahead of Edwards, Sharpton, Braun, Kucinich and Graham. Clark would probably have a tough time on the ground in Iowa (although the Draft Wesley Clark committee has been running tv ads there), but might do well in New Hampshire and So. Carolina. One of Clark's key supporters is George Bruno, former Demo Party chair in NH. Although his team has not been formally announced, it is supposed to be loaded with ex Clinton/Gore operatives. Among those who might be joining Clark are Ron Klain, Al Gore's former COS; C/G spin MD Mark Fabiani; Donnie Fowler, Gore's 2000 field director; and Bruce Lindsey, former special asst. to Bill Clinton. One major endorsement: U.S. Rep. Charles Rangel (D-NY). Best quote from Clark is on assault weapons: "If you want one, join the Army, we've got lots of them." More next week...

■ **Measure Q in Monterey Co.** – Originally the Monterey Co. Board of Supes had scheduled a special election for Oct. 7th to seek passage of a ½ cent sales tax hike to protect/save the Natividad Medical Center. For some obvious reasons, the special has been postponed to Dec.

2nd. Measure Q will be done with mail only ballots. L.A. based Dakota Communications will handle YES on Q (Quality Health Care). A 2/3rds vote is required and a recent poll by David Binder Research shows support running at 70%...

CALPEEK'S NEW JOBS AND PERSONNEL NOTICES.

Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook...

● A sad note: L.A. businessman and community leader Milton G. Gordon, 81, died Sept. 8th. He was Secretary of Business & Commerce under Gov. Pat Brown and was active on numerous Calif., L.A. Co. & City commissions. In 1970 Gordon was the Demo Party nominee for Calif. State Treasurer. R.I.P...

● L.A. Dep. Mayor Matt Middlebrook has resigned his city hall job to become a Sr. VP with Fleishman Hillard PR. Middlebrook will start out in the firm's L.A. office, but will transfer to the S.F. office by year's end...

● L.A. Mayor Hahn has named Shannon Murphy to be his communications director. She'll manage the mayor's press office. She begins work on Sept. 29th. She's currently at Fleishman Hillard in L.A...

● The Boxer for Senate Cmp. has named Yvette Martinez Bracamonte as its political director. Bracamonte most recently served as District COS to U.S. Rep. Solis...

● Nativo V. Lopez has been elected president of the Mexican American Political Assn.(MAPA)...

● L.A. Mayor Hahn has named Armen Ross as the Director of Homeless Services. Ross was deputy COS to former Councilman Nate Holden...

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